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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
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EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2623
DOCKET NO. 1538.1002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent Application of:

Masahiro WATANABE et al.

Group Art Unit: 2623

Serial No: 09/714,294

Examiner: Virginia M. Kibler

Technology Center 2600

Confirmation No.: 4921

Filed: November 17, 2000

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD

**RESPONSE AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Do not enter.

VMK 12/22/04 Sir:

This is responsive to the final Office Action mailed September 9, 2004, having a shortened period for response set to expire on December 9, 2004.

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.